GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
CALL TERMINATION CHARGES
Das Shri Khagen;Nimmala Shri Kristappa;Rathod Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of termination charges under Telecommunications Interconnection Usages Charges (IUC) is ultimately borne by the consumer, who has to pay the charges as part of the tariff;

(b) if so, whether TRAI is in the process of fuither revising the termination charges to benefit the consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) Madam, the Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) which includes termination charges are wholesale charges payable by on telecom operator to the other for use of the latter`s network for originating, terminating or transiting/carrying a call. The IUC concept has so far proved to be a suitable approach to interconnect pricing in a competitive, multi-operator environment. Though IUC prescribes the wholesale inter-operator charge yet it has bearing on the retail tariff as well.

(b) & (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a Consultation Paper on review of Interconnection Usage Charges on 27.04.2011 for broader consultation. Subsequently, o n the direction of the Hon`ble Supreme Court, TRAI filed the report on Interconnect Usage Charges in October, 2011 in the Hon`ble Supreme Court, TRAI also filed an application on 01.11.2011, seeking permission of Hon`ble Supreme Court to notify the regulations relating to revised interconnection usage charges. However, the court dismissed the application on 13.04.2012. The case was last heard on 10.07.2012. On this date, the court had adjourned these cases with the direction to the registry that the matters be listed before the larger Bench.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b & c) above.